



Charles Auer/Freeman Staff

Books for Bucks

WAUKESHA – Bango, the mascot of the Milwaukee Bucks mimes along to the song Wheels on the Bus during storytime at KinderCare Learning and Preschool at 2707 North Grandview Boulevard on Tuesday. Bango was there to visit with the kids and pick up a donation of 500 books for Sam's Hope, a charity that encourages reading and gives books to children from the inner city. The Milwaukee Bucks have been a partner with Sam's Hope for 13 years. Nationally, KinderCare is donating 15,000 books for children to read at home as part of their Read.Share.Give program.

Oconomowoc board accepts \$1 million offer for vacant school

Deal still contingent on receiving state tax credits

By Steve Van Dien
Freeman Staff

OCONOMOWOC – The Oconomowoc Area School District Board of Education unanimously voted on Tuesday night to accept a \$1,050,000 offer from an Oshkosh development firm to buy the district's vacant middle school for conversion into a 55-unit apartment building, featuring one-, two- and three-bedroom dwellings. The offer, however, is contingent on Keystone Development's obtaining so-called "affordable housing tax credits" from the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA). WHEDA will not accept

an application for such credits until January and won't announce whether it has approved it until late spring or early summer. So the middle school won't be getting a makeover any time soon, said the school's Assistant Superintendent and Business Services Director Michael Barry. "If WHEDA accepts the application, they'll sign off on the deal in November," he said. "Then Keystone will probably do about six months of site planning and engineering studies before they begin (the conversion)." The Oconomowoc Area School District would receive the money from Keystone in November as well – if the deal goes through, Barry said. "Right now, it's really impossible to say what we'd use the money for," he said. "That would be decided later." For the past two years,



Amber Gramza/Freeman Staff

The empty Oconomowoc Middle School building is located at 623 Summit Ave.

the building at 623 Summit Ave. has been used as the annual Haunted High, a fundraiser for the Oconomowoc Public Education Fund. The scary school raised \$85,000 for Oconomowoc Public Education Fund in 2010. The board had accepted an offer last year from Gorman & Company, Inc., an Oregon, WI-based firm,

to buy the school for \$1 million – again, for conversion into an apartment building. But that deal fell through when WHEDA turned down Gorman & Company's tax-credit application. "These applications are for very competitive projects," said Barry.

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Eagle contractor fined again for wetland violations

WAUKESHA – For the sixth time, an Eagle man and his business have been prosecuted for failing to properly protect state wetlands when working near them, the state Department of Justice announced Tuesday. Eagle contractor Lee Cresca and his business, Eagle Spring Environmental, Ltd., have been ordered to pay \$7,500 in fines, costs and fees for illegally filling wetlands and removing material from grading on the banks of a New Berlin pond without permits from

the Department of Natural Resources, the DOJ said in a press release. The violations occurred at a construction project in New Berlin in September and October of 2009. Cresca and Eagle Spring Environmental began dredging and grading work on a construction project in New Berlin that involved the deepening of an artificial pond connected to a navigable tributary of Poplar Creek. Cresca and Eagle Spring Environmental removed material from the pond, discharged sedi-

ments into nearby wetlands, and disturbed just more than three-quarters of an acre of land on the banks of the pond and a stream without having first obtained a water quality certification or a permit for the work. State law prohibits the discharging of pollutants to wetlands without a certification from the DNR that it follows state water quality standards. The law also prohibits removing material from navigable waterways and grading more than 10,000 square feet on

the banks of such waters without permits. The action is the state's sixth prosecution since 2005 against Cresca and Eagle Spring Environmental pertaining to illegal waterway and wetland disturbance activities, the DOJ said in the release. In addition to paying the \$7,500 judgment, Cresca and Eagle Spring Environmental also must pay \$38,426.22 in outstanding judgments in the other five cases.

– Freeman staff

Legislation on tap to prohibit 'double dipping'

Proposal would block active public employees from collecting state pension funds

By Troy Laack
Freeman Staff

SOUND OFF 

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MADISON – Republican state Rep. Ducey Stroebel of Cedarburg is poised to introduce legislation that would prohibit retired public employees from receiving Wisconsin Retirement System funds after they've been rehired in the public sector. "It's something that is just wrong," Stroebel said. "If you decide to unretire, well, you're no longer retired, therefore, why should you be collecting in one pocket a salary from the taxpayer and in another pocket a pension from the taxpayer?"

From January 2005 to December 2010, there were 5,729 WRS annuitants who were rehired as public employees, Stroebel said. "That would tell me there were 5,729 double dippers in that period of time," Stroebel said.

School officials say they have good reasons for rehiring retired teachers.

In the Waukesha School District, five retirees were rehired part-time because those positions couldn't be filled, Superintendent Todd Gray said.

"We couldn't find the people," Gray said. "There's just not enough out there."

If the district finds qualified candidates who can take on full-time positions, those changes will be made, Gray said.

"It's not a situation where I'm retired and boom, I'm going to come right back to work," Gray said. "We don't make those kind of deals. When we do have situations where we need a specific licensed teacher and we can't find them, we sometimes will have to use retirees on a temporary basis."

When officials say they can't find qualified applicants, Republican state Rep. Steve Nass of Whitewater looks at the Palmyra-Eagle School District, which had more than 1,000 applicants for open elementary teacher positions, Superintendent Glenn Schlander said.

"We've got a lot of applicants out there and for these teachers to turn right around and take that space so they can double dip, that's just simply wrong," Nass said. About 1,100 people retired this year from the public sec-

tor have been rehired in the public sector while still drawing state pension funds, Nass said. Fourteen retirees were rehired at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay including Finance Vice Chancellor Tom Maki at a \$131,000 salary.

State law prohibits rehiring less than 30 days after an employee leaves and it prohibits state agencies from taking steps to rehire before an employee leaves. Nass thinks UW-Green Bay violated that law when it rehired Maki.

"He never took anything out of his office," Nass said. "You don't do that when you retire."

UW-Green Bay Chancellor Tom Harden denies any wrongdoing, according to published reports.

WISN radio talk show host and Freeman columnist Mark Belling has brought examples of the issue to light and called two North Lake School District retired teachers "double-dippers."

Karen Niehausen, a second grade teacher, and Camille Faherty, a Spanish teacher, agreed in March to retire to help the district reduce its number of layoffs, Hirt said.

In July, the district lost its staff and curriculum development coordinator, which made Niehausen more valuable to the district, Hirt said.

"Karen Niehausen has been the lead teacher for many years in the primary grades," Hirt said. "She led the charge on our new math curriculum and that class of second graders coming in was 35 percent special ed."

The district received five applications for the Spanish teacher position and 94 applications for the second grade teacher job, Hirt said.

Faherty is among the few certified to teach Spanish in kindergarten through eighth grade, Hirt said. Faherty also has a great talent for educating elementary students and placing 80 percent of students in Spanish 2 at Arrowhead High School, which has a rigorous program, he said.

"We have a great commitment to make sure we have the absolute best educator in our classroom," Hirt said.

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Vrakas to unveil small business development program

PEWAUKEE – Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas will unveil details of a business development program during a press conference today at the Waukesha County Technical College.

The program will be aimed at fostering small business growth in Waukesha County, according to a press release.

Vrakas will speak in the Small Business Center in the Q Building, 800 Main St., Pewaukee.

"It's the first of its kind for Waukesha County government," said Julianne Klimetz, Vrakas' executive assistant. "The county executive will be able to answer on the program as well our other partners."

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Master Z's celebrates 20 years in Waukesha

This weekend join the party as Master Z's celebrates 20 years as one of the largest and most respected gameroom stores in the US.

To get this "party started" Master Z's will offer the most spectacular savings in the company's history.

"We are bringing in a massive tent to house all the pool tables being shipped in by Olhausen, our manufacturer and the largest manufacturer of pool tables in the world," announced Master Z's President and CEO Ken Zettelmeyer. Add to that top rated Olhausen billiard tables that will be on sale starting at just \$1499 with free delivery, set up, balls, sticks and all the extras and you have just a glimpse of how great this sale will be." Also see a special 20th anniversary pool table created for Master Z's by Olhausen that is on display.

Come into the Master Z's showroom at 1000 Spring City Drive in Waukesha and explore 15,000 square feet with the lowest prices of the season on bars, barstools, custom cues, air hockey, foosball, artwork and shuffleboards. And are you ready for this-the Video Game with 5000 games will be at the lowest of the low prices in 10 years!

Ken and wife Tracy, who is an integral part of this family business, are pleased to announce that Master Z's will be honored Saturday as a model company from Waukesha's Mayor Jeff Scrima. This dynamic duo started Master Z's on a leap and a prayer in 1991 when Ken was out of work and Tracy was expecting a baby. As Ken points out, "We started a billiard company with \$100, a beat up car and briefcase. The term barefoot and pregnant described us perfectly." Creativity, good old-fashioned hard work and a dream led to the start of the Master Z's the community can enjoy today. Tracy adds, "For the past 20 years Ken and I have had an outpouring of support from both our parents, friends and other family members. We can't say enough

about our employees; we have been blessed with the finest of employees whom we treat as close friends".

Shop now for the holidays with Master Z's selection of pool tables, ping pong tables and even poker tables. Reserve yours now so you will be set for Christmas gift giving and entertaining. Also reserve your holiday deliveries of kitchen and barstools and remember that Master Z's has one of the largest selections of kitchen and barstools in the Midwest with 100 on display and over 100,000 variations.

Master Z's versatility in what they can offer customers includes the ability for you to buy a pool table, put down as little as \$200 and hold it for up to six months. "Buy this weekend" suggests Ken, "save hundreds and take delivery during the holidays or after. We can do this because of our huge buying power and the fact we inventory at least 200 pool tables in our warehouse."

Don't miss this massive anniversary event which ends Sunday when the big tent comes down. All tables will be sold on a first come basis. Shop early, have fun and celebrate 20 amazing years with Master Z's, "where family fun is still affordable."

Master Z's is located at 1005 Spring City Drive on the corner of Sunset Avenue and Sentry Drive.

Hours of operation are: Monday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visit them online at www.masterzs.com or call 262.521.8004 or toll free: 800.521.5688





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Ken and Tracy and their staff thank you for 20 awesome years making them the largest gameroom store in Wisconsin!!!

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